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Borough of
Royal Leamington Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1954,

BY


D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Leamington Spa

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1955



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38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

July, 1955.

To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth annual report on the health of the borough. The population has increased by over 400 and there were no epidemics and the rates of births and deaths bear comparison well with those in previous years. Among the infectious diseases it will be noted that Tuberculosis again holds a place of importance with 57 new notifications for the year. There were, however, only four deaths within the same period whereas reference to the table on page 30 will show the striking reduction in mortality despite the larger totals being notified. In my opinion this is a sign of improved methods both of treatment of the sick persons and in the discovery of new cases in an early stage. Additional tuberculosis beds have been made available by the closure of the Heathcote Hospital as a fever hospital and the local health authority has strengthened its arrangements for the domiciliary treatment and visiting of tuberculosis patients. The problem is discussed in more detail in the text of the report.

HOUSING

Marked progress has been made in the field of housing. The Brook Street site was cleared by this Council which acquired the land; the smaller area cleared in Kenilworth Street was not acquired and was privately redeveloped for business purposes. Preparations were begun on the maps and documents for a clearance area in John Street. In addition three demolition orders were made on individual houses and three closing orders in respect of basement rooms. Six houses in all were demolished during the year and one closing order was determined.

The Housing (Rents and Repairs) Act, 1954, required local authorities to survey their areas and submit within twelve months an estimate of the number of unfit houses and of their proposals for dealing with these (a) in the first five years and (b) subsequently. For the purposes of Clearance Areas the definitions of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, still apply but the new Act lays down (except for

improvement grants) a statutory standard of unfitness which supersedes the rather higher local standard previously used. The return as approved by the Council and sent to the Ministry is reproduced on page 17.

There are also new provisions whereby landlords may claim rent increases and tenants, if aggrieved, may ask the local authority to issue a Certificate of Disrepair. The issue of these certificates has occupied less time than was expected. In every case where a tenant requested a certificate, its issue was found to be justified and it was also possible later to revoke previous certificates. There were no appeals to Court. Not a little of this happy state of affairs can be ascribed to a good working relationship with local estate agents who manage much of this class of property.

Apart from questions of clearance and demolition, much attention has been paid to repair work which may prevent decay of many houses. A closer follow up of preliminary notices has, in spite of local labour shortages, brought encouraging results and in 1954 of 379 notices issued compliance was secured in 351 instances. Thus not only was the total of repair notices much above normal but a very high percentage of these notices secured the performance of the works needed.

FOOD AND DRUGS

A clean food handbook was prepared and distributed and arrangements were put in hand for a Home Safety Handbook for distribution in 1955. It is pleasing also to report that there was no outbreak of food poisoning and that the sampling records of milk and ice-cream were more satisfactory than average.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

At the end of July the Ministry of Food ceased to have control of the slaughtering and marketing of meat. Private slaughterhouse licences could again be granted in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as subsequently amended by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

Finally five applications to use premises in the borough as slaughterhouses were received. Each application was dealt with on its merits and refused. In one case an appeal was entered but subsequently withdrawn.

Consequently there are no slaughterhouses operating within the borough. New regulations concerning slaughter and the prevention of cruelty came into force on 1st October, 1954.

Before the decontrol date the Council held several meetings attended by representatives of neighbouring councils (including the City of Coventry) and of local butchers and farmers. At one such meeting a tour of inspection of the Coventry City Abattoir was made. At the final meeting the Council decided not to support a plan to set up a joint abattoir for the area as the needs could be reasonably served by Coventry and other existing abattoirs.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Complaints have been received at various times in regard to alleged smoke nuisances. Complaints were investigated by the Sanitary Inspector and reports were made to the Public Health Committee. Action was taken in regard to two chimneys where there was persistent emission of smoke with failure to employ the best practical means of prevention. In the other cases there was no nuisance on which statutory action could be taken but it must be recognized that certain metallurgical and alkali processes can hardly be made free from offence even after every known remedy has been used.

SANITARY STAFFS

Some change again took place in your Sanitary Staff and the engagement of a pupil sanitary inspector was authorized both as a contribution towards the national shortage of junior sanitary inspectors and as a glance forward to the time, not very far distant, when the growth of your housing and population will make advisable the appointment of a fourth Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I have to thank the members and officers of the Council for much kindness and consideration in the past year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF
THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

Medical Officer of Health :

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. J. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.I.S.A.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. P. L. WALLIS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

M. H. YOUNG, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (from 11/1/54).

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

B. LAPWORTH (from 1/11/54)

Clerk and Meteorological Observer :

A. H. STALWORTH

Disinfector :

W. JACKSON

Rodent Operative :

P. JACKSON

Public Analyst :

F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

Borough of Royal Leamington Spa

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1954	...	...	37,800
Area of Borough	...	...	2,875 acres
Public open spaces	...	...	126.42 acres
Product of ld. rate	...	...	£1,476
Total number of permanent dwellinghouses and flats on 31/3/1954.	...	...	12,183
Birth Rate (Crude)	...	...	16.9
Birth Rate (Corrected)	...	...	16.2
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	22.9
Death Rate (Crude)	...	...	12.0
Death Rate (corrected)	...	...	10.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		— 1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	25.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	27.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1

Deaths.—The death recorded above as due to Whooping Cough was due to heart failure in the course of this disease and was that of a female mental defective in the second year of life.

The death ascribed to Accidents of pregnancy and childbirth was that of a thirty-five years old woman. The matter was investigated by H.M. Coroner at an inquest held on 23rd March, 1954, when the post-mortem findings showed that death arose from Air Embolism due to local interference with a normal sixteen-week pregnancy and a verdict of manslaughter was returned. At a further inquest held the same day upon the death of a sixty-years-old woman from a fractured skull, a verdict of murder was returned.

Infant Mortality.—Out of 640 live births there were 16 deaths under the age of one year of which 13 took place in the first four weeks of life. The resultant rate of infant mortality is almost the same as in 1953. There were no deaths out of 47 illegitimate births for 1954 but 3 illegitimate infants were stillborn as against 12 legitimate infants compared with a total of 593 legitimate live births.

Population.—An increase of 410 over the estimated figure for 1953.

Birth Rate.—This is lower than last year and is accompanied by a small rise in the Stillbirth rate.

Death Rate.—This, after correction, is similar to that for 1953. The deaths of persons over 65 years are analysed as follows :—

Age at death :	65-75 yrs.	75-85 yrs.	85 and over
	110	134	47

One female death occurred at the age of 102 years.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Laboratory Facilities.—The following examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry during 1954.

	Positive	Negative	Total
SWABS (from throat or nose), examined for Diphtheria ...	—	4	4
DYSENTERY/FOOD POISONING ...	16	20	36
TUBERCULOSIS	—	—	—

Many investigations under heading of Tuberculosis are carried out annually through the organisation of the local chest clinic and numerous throat swabs and stool cultures for dysentery, etc. are examined in hospital laboratories.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

Infant Welfare Centres.—The following Centres are held within the Borough :—

4, Hamilton Terrace	...	Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.
No. 1 Community Centre, Tachbrook Road	... ..	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Bowling Club, Lime Avenue, Lillington	... ..	Mondays, 2 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999). National Welfare Foods have been distributed since July 1954 by the County Council and there are numerous official and voluntary distribution points in the Borough, details of which have been publicly advertised.

Ambulance facilities.—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

Hospital services.—General or maternity cases are admitted to the Warneford or Warwick hospitals; Tuberculosis patients go to Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton. There is also a Maternity Home at 3, The Butts, Warwick, which receives for confinement some women resident in the Borough of Leamington Spa. Additional beds are available for Tuberculosis patients at Heathcote Hospital, Warwick, and St. Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The sources of the Town's water were as described for previous years, and can be supplemented to a small extent by supplies from outside the Borough.

1. Quality has been good and the quantity has sufficed for the town's needs owing to care taken to prevent waste. There has in fact been an increase in consumption of about one-third of a gallon per head per day. Substantial quantities of river water are taken from the river Leam and in addition there are a number of wells.

2. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are made monthly of the well waters and weekly of the raw and filtered river water. A typical analysis report is reproduced on the next page.

3. The water is not excessively plumbo-solvent and no special precautions are taken against this.

4. Chlorination plants are installed at all sources of supply. They have operated satisfactorily and no contamination has been reported.

5. The bulk of the population has piped water available within their houses though it will be realized that many persons who live in rooms have a shared supply. Standpipes are known to supply 187 houses and serve an estimated population of 748 persons. Piped supplies now serve approximately 9,501 houses in the borough having an estimated occupancy of 37,256 persons. These figures, which do not include shops and places of business with parts let off as dwelling houses, show that an additional 232 houses have a mains water supply.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Results expressed in parts per million.

(4th August, 1954)

				<i>Unfiltered River Water</i>	<i>Filtered River Water</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...			0.032	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	...			0.352	0.256
Chlorine in Chlorides	...			33	36
Nitrogen in Nitrates	}			1.0	1.5
Nitrogen in Nitrites					
Oxygen absorbed from					
Permanganate at 80° F. in					
4 hours	...	...	...	2.07	1.75
Total Solids driven at 100° C.				760	700
Appearance—U.F.C.	...			Slightly turbid with many small particles	
F.C.	...			Bright few small particles.	
Hardness	}	Temporary	...	200	190
		Permanent	...	260	280
		Total	...	460	470
Nitrite	...	...	...	0.016	Absent
Metals	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	—	0.02
pH value	...	...	...	8.02	7.49
Dissolved CO ₂	...	...	...	12	45
Alkalinity as CO ₃	...	...	...	142.8	127.8

Conditions of Filtration Plant—

Time and date of sample : 10 a.m., 4th Aug., 1954.

Rate of Filtration : 38,000 g.p.h.

Position at which taken : Filter House.

Albumia Dose : 3.29 g.p.h.

Copper Sulphate : 0.52 parts per million.

Whether or not dosed with Chlorine : Yes. 1.35lbs. per hour.

Residual Chlorine : 0.45 P.P.M.

After Filtration : Nil.

Immediate : 0.30 P.P.M.

After 20 mins. : 0.20 P.P.M.

Remarks :

River Flow = 8.75 MG/D. Water good.

Hazen Raw = 20 A Units.

Hazen Treated = Less than 5A Units.

Taste Good.

SO₂ Dose = .19 lbs./hr.

Sample taken after Declorination

Residual = .05 P.P.M.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. New mains laid in 1954—				<i>Yards</i>
Town Water Mains	...	...	...	6009
River Water Mains	...	...	...	—
2. Amount of Water pumped in 1954 :—				
<i>Corporation Source.</i>				<i>Gallons.</i>
From Campion Terrace	...	...	...	101,270,000
„ Lillington	...	...	...	100,940,000
„ Brewery Well	...	...	...	42,112,000
„ Leicester Lane	...	...	...	38,041,000
„ River (filtered)	...	...	...	264,493,000
„ River (unfiltered)	...	...	...	78,305,000
<i>Outside Sources.</i>				<i>Gallons.</i>
Taken from Warwick R.D.C.				Nil.
Water supplied to Warwick R.D.C.				11,276,000
3. Daily consumption of Town Water per head			39.83	galls
River Water supplied to Residents per head			2.42	„
River Water supplied annually to Rail-				
way Companies	...	...	44,921,000	„

Swimming Baths.—On May 23rd, 1949, the small swimming bath was taken over for medical purposes, so that the figures here given are for the large bath. The total number of those using the baths during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1954, was 143,079. The average attendance per week during the Summer season (May to September) was 4,880 and during the Winter season 1,190. These figures represent a marked increase in bathers during the summer season.

Examinations of the medical and swimming bath water were made during the year and proved satisfactory. Alterations made to the purification plant of the medical baths have thus been shown to have been a success.

Rivers.—Sources of pollution both inside and outside the Borough were kept under observation.

Closet accommodation.—With the exception of a few cottages at Lillington and Milverton the houses throughout the town are equipped with water closets.

Scavenging.—Approximately 12,099 tons of refuse were collected and received at the Destructor, as compared with 10,064 the previous year. This steady increase in total refuse tonnage with decline of thermal value due to much fine ash poses a problem for solution as the number of houses goes on growing.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1947.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1947	...	—	24	25	1	25	—	16
1948	...	—	2	28	—	14	—	3
1949	...	—	2	19	—	16	—	5
1950	...	—	2	14	—	12	5	5
1951	...	—	1	9	—	27	1	36
1952	...	—	—	46	—	11	1	35
1953	...	—	—	46	—	49	10	39
1954	...	—	—	20	—	41	2	51

Diphtheria.—Once more no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year, and there was a satisfactory rise in the total of children protected against this disease.

The details were as follows :—

	1954	1953	1952	1951
Children under 5 years ...	538	306	384	490
Children 5 to 14 years ...	97	20	71	65
Children given booster doses	931	317	506	609

Scarlet Fever.—This was about half as common as in the past two years. Not one of the 20 cases this year was removed to an Isolation Hospital.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis).—In 1954, 494 children were given prophylactic injections and a combined Diphtheria/Pertussis suspended vaccine was employed except for children who had already been immunized against Diphtheria and were given plain Pertussis vaccine. Reports are being collected of all children, immunized under this scheme, who subsequently contract Whooping Cough in order to check on the potency of the vaccines employed.

Poliomyelitis.—1954 was a year of low prevalence in this district and neighbouring areas, following the 1953 epidemic. There were two notifications, one relating to an infant under one year and the other to a young adult. Both cases were nursed in hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
25-35 ...	11	7	—	2	1	—	—	—
35-45 ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	30	20	4	3	5	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases ...	26	32	40	40	28	23	43
Deaths ...	17	9	9	15	8	5	10
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases ...	26	40	45	43	42	38	65
Deaths ...	23	22	17	22	19	11	24
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cases ...	25	46	42	30	53	68	57
Deaths ...	26	18	6	12	4	4	6

B.C.G. Vaccine was administered to 51 persons of whom 3 were adults and 48 children. This reflects the higher number of child contacts being examined as a result of the bigger total notified.

50 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium and 48 were discharged.

Tuberculosis.—The total of cases notified in 1954 was again high and arose partly through the more intensive search for infected persons by means of contact tracing. Once again there was a visit to the Borough during June by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, but this time there were fewer organized sessions so as to give the general public better access. The response was not as good as had been expected.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Coventry Mass Radiography Unit of Birmingham Regional
Hospital Board.

Medical Director Dr. A. Gordon Evans

Date of visiting Borough: June 14th—June 23rd, 1954.

Place: Denby Rooms, Regent Grove.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Miniature X-ray examination ...	372	629	1,001
Recalled for large film examination	26	36	62
Recalled for clinical examination ...	11	12	23

Analysis of clinical examinations.

1. *Referred to Chest Clinic.*

(a) *Tuberculosis.*

(i) Suspected active post primary	2	—	2
(ii) Inactive post-primary	1	4	5
(iii) Inactive post primary accompanied by pneumokoniosis ...	1	—	1
(b) Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
(c) Benign tumour		1	1

6	5	11
---	---	----

2. *Referred to own doctor.*

(a) Tuberculosis—inactive post primary	1	—	1
(b) Chronic bronchitis and emphysema	—	1	1
(c) Broncho-pneumonia ...	—	1	1
(d) Bronchiectasis	1	—	1
(e) Cardio-vascular lesion ...	1	3	4

3	5	8
---	---	---

3. *No further action considered necessary.*

(a) Tuberculosis—inactive post primary	1	—	1
(b) Pleural thickening ...	1	—	1
(c) Cardio-vascular lesion ...	—	2	2

2	2	4
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Total clinicals	11	12	23
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NOTE.—The above includes patients referred by General Practitioners—23 female and 6 male, total 29.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

In accordance with Par. 47 of the above Act it was necessary to recommend action in the following case:—

1. *Miss L. A. B—* (aged 83 years). Living alone in a ground floor flat and causing nuisance to sub-tenants in rooms over. Home helps were refused admission and offers of help from relatives were declined. The old lady, aged over 80 years, was much crippled by progressive Arthritis. When seen in October, 1954, she was in a dirty condition and her flat in a state of nuisance. She was not having proper meals or attention. An application was made to the Magistrates' Court but the hearing was deferred until a bed could be found in late November, 1954. The Magistrates then made an order for her removal to Lakin House, Warwick and detention there for three months. The County Welfare Officer was asked to take custody of her property and a large sum in cash was found among her effects.

Two other cases referred by doctors were assisted as follows:—

2. *Mrs. L—* (60). Living in cheerless slum cottage in a potential clearance area. Onset of senile decay had numbed all desire to do things for herself and she was in privation through lack of fires and cooked meals. A home help was supplied and made things much more comfortable for several months but the old lady failed suddenly in health and died.

3. *Mr. S—* (aged over 80 years). Lived with his daughter in a small unfit house. He was permanently ill with Bronchitis and Heart trouble. The daughter took ill with Pneumonia and could no longer care for him. District Nursing attention was arranged until a bed in hospital was found for him.

Other reports were investigated and action taken.

4. *Mr. C—* (aged 83) was found to be in bad conditions resulting from incontinence of urine. It was arranged through the good offices of the local W.V.S. Office to supply the old man with a change of outer and under clothes.

5. *Mrs. F—*. Elderly lady semi-paralysed following a stroke and dependent upon care from a male cousin. Arrangements were made with her doctor to send her into hospital.

6. *Miss G—*. Elderly lady who had lost one leg by surgical amputation and cared for by a niece. Arrangements made through Health Visitor for approval by National Assistance Board to supply necessary blankets.

7. *Mr. and Mrs. S—*. Elderly couple (ailing wife) were rehoused from Clearance Area to new bungalow with special assistance arranged with Housing Manager, owing to bad state of their furniture. Extra bedding supply arranged and wheel chair ordered through County Health Department to enable the wife to be taken out.

8. *Mrs. S—* (80). Cared for as bedfast case in upstairs room by two sisters aged 84 and 78 years. She had had strokes which caused mental confusion and incontinence. The whole burden of the house was too much for the younger of the sisters and priority of admission to hospital was arranged.

9. *Mrs. S—* (70) was reported to be in financial difficulties. This proved to be incorrect as she had a small pension which made her ineligible for National Assistance.

Mr. and Mrs. T— were discovered through a local welfare organisation. The couple were both in their eighties and the husband had only one leg and was also ill at the time. Home help was arranged and other assistance given by the W.V.S. The Welfare Authority was asked for assistance by their Officer.

CANCER

The deaths due to malignant disease and classified in age groups were as follows :—

Age Group.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 50	2	7	9
50-60	8	8	16
60-70	15	7	22
70-80	10	9	19
80 and over ...	5	10	15
	—	—	—
	40	41	81

For the past ten years cancer deaths have been as follows :

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total	60	66	75	83	88	82	75
Death Rate } per 1,000 }	1.69	1.87	2.15	2.36	2.42	2.26	2.06
	1951	1952	1953	1954			
Total	60	91	72	81			
Death Rate } per 1,000 }	1.64	2.5	1.9	2.14			

This year's total compares with the rate of 2.03 for the whole country.

MORTUARY

Considerable use was made of the Borough Mortuary, as 108 bodies were received and there were 100 post-mortem examinations. This is an increase of nearly 20 per cent on the total received in 1953.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Only 27 samples of ice-cream were taken and the results of six tests were invalidated by excessive shade temperature. Of the remainder only one was in Grade 4 so that the results are better than last year. Milk samples showed that pasteurization had been adequate but it is a little disturbing that, as regards keeping quality, ordinary pasteurized milk satisfied the methylene blue test more often than Tuberculin Tested (pasteurized) milk which should be produced under more stringent conditions and sells at a premium. This finding will receive further study.

**FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND
ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950.**

SECTION B.

Tuberculosis Milk Investigation—Routine Milk
Samples for Biological Examination during
the year 1954.

<i>Designation of Milk</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>No Positive</i>
PASTEURISED	—	—
“ TUBERCULIN TESTED (PASTEURISED) ” ...	—	—
“ TUBERCULIN TESTED ”	1	—
“ ACCREDITED ” AND NON-GRADE	—	—

HOUSING, 1954

The usual Table has been completed and is given on page 17.

Number of houses built in the town during 1954 :—

- (a) By the Local Authority 305
- (b) By Private Enterprise 179

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is 2196

The number of Prefabricated Bungalows is 113

Houses converted into two or more houses, or flats :—

Originally 3 houses, now 16 flats.

Action taken under the Housing Acts has in the aggregate had the following results since 1925 despite the curb on activity during the late war and through the national housing shortage ensuing.

Houses demolished	187
Houses and parts of buildings closed	29
Undertakings given in lieu of demolition orders and closing orders on dwellinghouses ...	11
Demolition orders made but houses not yet demolished	18
Basement dwellings closed	103
Undertakings given in lieu of closing orders on parts of buildings	14
Houses reconditioned	22

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND SHOPS ACT INSPECTOR
for the year ending December 31st, 1954.**

ADMINISTRATION.

Complaints.—617 complaints were received by the department during the year compared with 514 received last year. The matters complained about were as follows :—

Housing complaints	248
Nuisances from smoke, etc.	5
Nuisances from animals	10
Offensive accumulations	50
Rats and Mice	73
Other vermin	52
State of Food Premises and unsound food ...	75
Obstructed or defective drains	81
Defective Dustbins	7
Miscellaneous	16

Notices.—The total number of notices sent out during the year was 379, of which 32 were formal and 347 informal. By the end of the year 351 notices had been complied with. This is easily a record and is largely due to the practice of closely following up the preliminary notices.

Health Education.—Three talks on the work of the department and allied public health subjects were given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector during the year. Large numbers of leaflets also were distributed.

Summary of visits and inspections and work done during the year.

Visits in relation to notifiable infectious diseases ...	130
Rooms disinfected	40
Steam disinfections	23
Books disinfected	29
Bundles of clothing disinfected	15
Rooms disinfested	132
Premises cleansed	Nil.
Persons cleansed	2
Inspections of food shops and premises	537
factories	59
dairies	37
common lodging house	21
Housing Inspections, re-inspections and inspections of work in progress	2284

Housing allocation enquiries	...	...	...	...	392
Drains tested by smoke	...	...	...	...	23
chemically	...	...	...	...	14
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	8
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	50
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke observations made	...	...	...	...	76
Rodent Control visits	...	...	...	...	137
Merchandise Marks Act visits	...	...	...	...	142
National Assistance Act visits	...	...	...	...	70
Pets Act visits	...	...	...	...	26
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	38
Other samples taken for bacteriological examination :—					
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	23
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	112
Water—Swimming Bath	...	...	...	...	7
Therapeutic Pool	...	...	...	...	6
Other	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1954

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	549
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	712
2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	52
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	73
3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	77
4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	218

II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	223
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) by owners | Nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil. |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 218 |
| (2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) by owners | 11 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil. |

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 6 |

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 3 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 1 |

IV. A.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | } Information not available. |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | |

B.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year

C.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | } Information not available. |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | |

D.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (1) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | } Information not available. |
|---|------------------------------|

The inspection of dwelling houses and the inspection of repair work in progress continues to take up the greater part of the Sanitary Inspectors' time and the total of such inspections is nearly double that for the previous year.

As the table shows 549 houses were inspected for housing defects and of these 234 were rendered fit as a result of either formal or informal action. Three Demolition Orders were made, six houses were demolished and three Closing Orders made. One Closing Order was removed after the premises had been made fit.

The above work does not include surveys made for the purpose of estimating the total number of unfit houses in the borough or for other information required to form the basis of the Housing proposals which had to be made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by August 30th, 1955.

In addition, the 47 houses in the Brook Street Clearance Area were also demolished during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

This Act came into force on August 30th and enables landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent. Where the condition of the house is disputed by the tenant, on receiving the notice of repairs increase from his landlord, he can apply to the local authority for a so-called "certificate of disrepair."

Contrary to expectations the number of such applications was small, being only 15, and in each case a certificate was granted. Subsequently applications were received for the revocation of certificates in three cases and of these, two were granted.

There were no appeals to the court against the local authority's refusal either to grant a certificate, to revoke one already granted, or against its issue.

CARAVANS

There are now no licensed caravan sites within the borough boundary but one application for a licence to station one caravan on a building site was granted during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

38 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year who certified 34 to be genuine and 4 not genuine. The figure of 38 refers to the calendar

year but for the financial year ended on March 31st, 1955, the number of samples taken was 126, and these will be dealt with in the 1955 Report. Details of the food and drug samples, all of which were informal samples, are given in the table below.

Sampling of the raw milk coming into the town is done by the County Sampling Officer before delivery to the pasteurising plant.

				<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Sweetened Cake Mixture	...			1	—
Ground Nutmeg	...	...	...	1	—
Table jelly	...	...	...	1	—
Dripping	...	...	...	2	—
Butter	...	...	...	3	—
Margarine	...	...	...	4	—
Chutney	...	...	...	1	—
White Pepper	...	...	...	1	—
Fish Paste	...	...	...	1	—
Coffee	...	...	...	1	—
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	1	1
Milk	...	...	...	3	—
Salad Cream	...	...	...	1	—
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	1	—
Pickles	...	...	...	1	—
Sauce	...	...	...	1	—
Coconut	...	...	...	1	—
Iced lollies	...	...	...	1	—
Tincture of Quinine	...	...	...	2	2
Tablets of Cascara Sagrada	...			1	—
Milk of Magnesia Tablets	...			1	—
Cold Cure Capsules	...	...		1	—
Glycerine of Thymol Pastilles	...			1	—
Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment	...			2	1
				34	4
TOTALS	...	...		38	

In the case of the unsatisfactory Tincture of Quinine samples and the Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment sample the remaining stocks were withdrawn from sale. The informal Pork Sausage sample contained 57 per cent. total meat and the vendor was informed that this was not regarded as being satisfactory.

UN SOUND FOOD.

Quantities and description of food found to be unsound and surrendered for destruction as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef : $146\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Pork : 12ozs.

Lamb : 31lbs.

Ox liver : 18lbs.

Pork sausage : $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Beef sausage : 12lbs.

Bath chaps : 5lbs.

Sausage rusks : 12 sacks.

Ox tongue : $32\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Jellied veal : 19lbs.

Cooked ham : 208lbs. 11ozs.

Haddock : 14lbs.

Prawns : 9lbs.

Fish cakes : 4.

Cheese : 182lbs. 10ozs.

Eggs : 13.

Suet : 68lbs.

Butter : $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Margarine : $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Sugar : 11lbs.

Tea : $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Prunes : 715lbs.

Ice cream powder : 82lbs.

Lemonade powder : 82lbs.

Seedless Raisins : 15lbs.

Cake : 19lbs. 3ozs.

Miscellaneous tinned foodstuffs : 1834.

Miscellaneous jars and packets of foodstuffs : 128.

Reasons for condemnation were in the case of canned foods, blown, holed or rusted cans ; in the case of bottled foods, broken glass or defective caps ; in other cases the causes were contamination or decomposition.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

The Ministry of Food's control of slaughtering of animals and marketing of meat ended in July and the licensing of private slaughterhouses again became possible.

Five applications for licences were received but none were granted. One subsequent appeal was later withdrawn so that there are now no slaughterhouses, private or otherwise, within the borough.

Unsound or diseased meat, however, exposed for sale in butchers' shops or elsewhere, continues to be subject to inspection and seizure by the sanitary inspectors.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949

Licences issued during the year under the above Regulations :

Dealers (Pasteurisers) Licence.....	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	7
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	26
Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk	26
Dealers Licences for Accredited Milk.....	1*
Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk	1

(*Expired on 31/3/54)

Samples of milk were taken regularly for bacteriological examination and the results are set out below :

Designation	No.	Nature of Tests	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	60	Phosphatase	60	—
		Methylene Blue	49	1 (10*)
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	52	Phosphatase	52	—
		Methylene Blue	40	4 (8*)

* Tests void on account of high temperature.

Twelve empty cleaned milk bottles were also sent for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

Results of the bacteriological examination of samples of ICE CREAM :

Grade 1	15	65.3%	} Satisfactory.
Grade 2	1	4.8%	
*Grade 3	6	26.1%	} Unsatisfactory.
Grade 4	1	4.8%	

* These samples were taken on a day when the maximum shade temperature reached 80°F.

CANAL BOATS

There are no boats on the Register and none were inspected during the year. Very few boats now stop in the town, but of those seen passing along the canal within the borough boundaries, all were observed to be in good repair and correctly marked as required by the Regulations.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Enforcement of the provisions of these Acts rests with two bodies, the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Local Authority, there being well-defined duties shared by H.M. Inspectors of Factories and by Sanitary Inspectors.

For the purposes of the Acts factories are classified as :

- (a) where mechanical power is used, and
- (b) where mechanical power is not used.

Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary accommodation in both (a) and (b) but other matters relating to health are only enforced by them in (b), such as cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage in addition to sanitary accommodation.

The following tables detail the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Factories, Class (a)	216	17
Factories, Class (b)	120	31
Other premises	13	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	349	59
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Number of cases in which defects were found : 5.

Details as under :—

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ...	5	5

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This act came into force in 1952, and is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals.

Local authorities have power to grant licences to persons to keep pet shops which they approve and these licences specify the conditions which must be observed.

There were three licences issued during the year and 26 inspections were made of the premises which were found to comply with the conditions of the licences.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1951

1064 inspections of properties were made during the year. The number of infestations treated were as under :

Private dwellings	122
Business premises	6
Corporation properties	30
In addition the sewers were treated twice.	

It is not generally realised that the responsibility for destroying rats and mice rests on owners and occupiers of land. The occupier is required to give notice in writing to the local authority when it comes to his notice that rats or mice are living on or resorting to his land in substantial numbers. The local authority may call upon owners or occupiers to take reasonable steps to destroy rats or mice and to keep their premises free from them.

The department undertakes to destroy rats and mice on private property as a free service, and on business premises at a reasonable charge, but this service does not relieve owners or occupiers of their primary responsibility in the matter.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL ACT, 1951

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in the upholstery and allied trades, and regulations have been made prescribing the standards of cleanliness to which these materials must conform.

Premises are required to be registered where specified filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys baby carriages and other articles of upholstery, but re-conditioning of upholstery can be done on unregistered premises.

Premises are required to be licensed where rag-flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises. No premises were registered or licensed in the borough during the year.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

Regulations made under this Act require shopkeepers to mark certain imported goods or produce with an indication of origin. The manner in which this is to be done is laid down in the regulations.

During the year 142 visits were made to shops, and once again several shopkeepers were cautioned for failing to mark imported tomatoes with a proper indication of origin. Shopkeepers have regularly to be reminded that for the purpose of these regulations the Channel Islands are not regarded as being part of Great Britain, and consequently tomatoes from these islands must be marked with an indication of origin.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The department is concerned with two sections of this Act, one whereby persons in need of care and attention can be removed to suitable accommodation (see report of the Medical Officer of Health on page 13) and the other, which lays on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made otherwise than by the authority.

One such case was dealt with by the department during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Frequent tours of the town were made during the year in order to ascertain whether the requirements of the Shop Acts and the regulations made thereunder were being observed.

A summary of these observations follow :—

A summary of these observations follows :—

Sunday Trading	...	...	...	16
Half-day Closing	...	...	...	24
Evening Hours	...	...	...	40

The undermentioned contraventions were found and dealt with either verbally or by letter :—

Failing to close at the prescribed times	...	...	...	2
Failing to exhibit the required notices				3

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1954

The taking and recording of Meteorological observations have continued throughout the year, the Observer being Mr. A. H. Stalworth who has compiled the following statistics.

TABLE OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, LEAMINGTON SPA, 1954.

Latitude 52° 18' N.

Longitude 1° 30' W.

Month	Means of Barom. 9 a.m.	AIR TEMPERATURES										EARTH TEMPS.		Direc- of the pre- vailng Wind	Rainfall	
		Means			Absolute Temperatures				At 1 foot	At 4 feet	Inches	Days				
		9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Date	Min.	Date								
January ...	30.14	36.2	42.0	32.1	57	on 15th	20	on 28th	38.4	48.8	S.W.	0.84	14			
February ...	29.81	37.0	42.8	32.3	54	,, 22nd	18	,, 2nd	36.6	47.2	S.W.	2.29	17			
March ...	29.76	43.0	49.2	36.8	60	,, 11th	24	,, 2nd	42.5	—	E.	2.07	15			
April ...	30.25	47.2	54.4	37.3	60	,, 10th & 29th	29	,, 7th	47.8	—	N.E. & W.	0.56	9			
May ...	29.99	53.3	60.4	45.2	77	,, 12th	34	,, 8th	54.2	—	S.W.	3.15	18			
June ...	29.95	56.8	64.2	50.2	72	,, 24th	43	,, 14th	60.8	54.1	S.W.	2.72	16			
July ...	29.85	58.7	64.8	51.9	72	,, 20th & 24th	43	,, 7th	62.6	56.4	S.W.	2.65	21			
August ...	29.84	59.0	66.4	52.2	76	,, 31st	45	,, 14th & 27th	62.7	57.6	S.W.	3.84	20			
September	29.82	57.0	63.5	47.9	82	,, 1st	35	,, 23rd	58.9	57.8	S.W.	1.94	20			
October ...	29.88	54.7	59.7	48.6	68	,, 1st	30	,, 26th	54.5	56.3	S.W.	3.22	22			
November...	29.82	44.1	50.4	38.9	58	,, 11th	27	,, 17th & 18th	45.8	53.9	S.W.	4.72	21			
December ...	29.91	43.6	48.9	39.3	58	,, 2nd	27	,, 11th	42.6	50.7	S.W.	1.71	17			
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.71	210
Means ...	29.92	49.2	55.6	42.7	...	...	...	...	50.6	—	...	...	...

METEOROLOGICAL AVERAGES OF
LEAMINGTON SPA.

For the 74 Years, 1881-1954						For the 39 years, 1912 to 1950.
Month.	Means of Barom. 9 a.m.	Air Temperature.		Rainfall.		Sunshine
		Max.	Min.	Inches.	Days.	Hours.
January ...	29.93	44.4	34.2	2.10	16	41.4
February	29.96	45.1	34.4	1.72	13	59.8
March ...	29.96	50.1	36.1	1.57	13	101.4
April ...	29.93	54.6	39.1	1.74	14	134.5
May ...	29.96	62.7	44.7	2.01	13	179.5
June ...	30.03	67.7	49.7	1.82	12	189.7
July ...	29.95	70.2	53.5	2.46	14	168.7
August ...	29.86	69.6	52.9	2.47	14	163.2
September	29.98	64.7	48.9	2.18	12	122.7
October ...	29.96	57.5	42.7	2.45	15	92.8
November	29.90	49.0	37.7	2.35	15	51.5
December	29.92	45.8	36.1	2.11	16	35.9
Means and Totals ...	29.95	56.8	42.5	24.98	167	1341.1

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1947	35,170	687	19.5	18	26	484	13.5
1948	36,210	661	13.3	19	29	461	12.7
1949	36,020	648	18.0	24	37	488	13.5
1950	36,370	581	16.0	17	29.3	463	12.7
1951	36,520	571	15.7	14	24.5	507	13.9
1952	36,730	601	16.4	13	21.6	461	12.5
1953	37,390	684	18.3	17	24.9	432	11.6
1954	37,800	640	16.2	16	25	455	12.0

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1954.
(Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.				Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births.	Births to Deaths.		
England and Wales	...	15.2	23.4	11.3	25.5

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	.....
Scarlet Fever	20	1	4	13	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	41	.....	5	10	1	7	7	11	2
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	36	1	14	16	1	4	.....	.....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	51	.....	.....	.....	21	30	.....	.....	50
Meningococcal Infection	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	2	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2
Whooping Cough	68	8	26	32	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	156	4	47	104	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	.....	6	.....	12	24	8	.....	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	.....	.....	4	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....
Totals	441	16	102	179	40	69	19	16	60

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis respiratory	5	—
2 Tuberculosis other	—	1
3 Syphilitic disease	—	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	1
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	2	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	17	5
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo plasms	17	21
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
16 Diabetes	2	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	20	50
18 Coronary disease, angina	38	17
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	3
20 Other heart disease	27	54
21 Other circulatory disease	4	9
22 Influenza	3	1
23 Pneumonia	6	9
24 Bronchitis	10	7
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	3
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	4
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	2
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
31 Congenital malformations	—	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	17	27
33 Motor vehicle accidents	6	3
34 All other accidents	3	7
35 Suicide	2	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	1
All Causes	203	252

